

What is claimed is:

1           1. A substantially planar pad support for placement on  
2           an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp, comprising: a  
3           hub having an aperture with a predetermined geometry  
4           substantially centrally disposed therein, said hub having a  
5           plurality of lobes radiating from the perimeter thereof,  
6           said lobes each having distal ends at a predetermined radius  
7           from a center of said aperture.

1           2. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2           member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, wherein  
3           said aperture is sized to loosely surround an elongated  
4           member of a specific pipe or bar clamp.

1           3. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2           member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 2, wherein  
3           said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a circle,  
4           square, rectangle, and polygon.

1           4. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2           member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 3, wherein  
3           said pad support is formed by one of the processes:  
4           injection molding, and machining.

1           5. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 4, wherein  
3 said pad support comprises a rib molded into at least one  
4 of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.

1           6. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 5, wherein  
3 said plurality of lobes comprises three lobes.

1           7. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 3, wherein  
3 said elongated member comprises at least two sections of  
4 pipe joined end-to-end to one another by a pipe coupling  
5 having a predetermined outside diameter.

1           8. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 7, wherein  
3 said aperture is sized to slip over said outside diameter of  
4 said pipe coupling.

1           9. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, further  
3 comprising: a layer of resilient material affixed to a face  
4 of each of said lobes.

1           10. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 9, wherein  
3 said layer of resilient material is inset into said face of  
4 each of said lobes.

1           11. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, further  
3 comprising means for securing said pad support to an  
4 elongated member of said pipe clamp.

1           12. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 11,  
3 wherein said means for securing said pad support comprises a  
4 set screw.

1           13. The substantially planar pad support as recited in  
2 claim 11, wherein said aperture is sized to loosely surround  
3 an elongated member of a specific pipe or bar clamp.

1           14. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 12,  
3 wherein said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a  
4 circle, square, rectangle, and polygon.

1           15. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 14,  
3 wherein said pad support is formed by one of the processes:  
4 injection molding, and machining.

1           16. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 15,  
3 wherein said pad support comprises a rib molded into at  
4 least one of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.

1           17. The pad support for placement on an elongated  
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 15,  
3 wherein said plurality of lobes comprises three lobes.

1           18. A method for spacing the elongated member of a  
2 pipe clamp above a surface of a work piece, the steps  
3 comprising:

4           a) providing a pipe clamp having an elongated  
5 member, a fixed jaw; and an adjustable jaw, at least  
6 one of said fixed jaw, and said adjustable jaw  
7 removably affixed to said elongated member;

8           b) providing a pad support comprising: a hub  
9 having an aperture with a predetermined geometry  
10 substantially centrally disposed therein, said hub

11           having a plurality of lobes radiating from the  
12           perimeter thereof, said lobes each having a distal end;

13                   c) removing one of said fixed jaw and said  
14           adjustable jaw from said elongated member;

15                   d) sliding said aperture of said pad support over  
16           said elongated member;

17                   e) replacing said removed one of said fixed jaw  
18           and said adjustable jaw on said elongated member;

19                   f) using said pipe clamp to clamp a work piece;  
20           and

21                   g) moving said pad support along said elongated  
22           member to a desired position.

1           19. The method for spacing the elongated member of a  
2           pipe clamp above a surface of a work piece as recited in  
3           claim 18, wherein said pad support comprises means for  
4           securing said pad support to said elongated member and said  
5           steps further comprise:

6                   h) after said pad support moving step (g),  
7           securing said at least one pad support to said  
8           elongated member.

1           20. A plurality of pad supports for placement on an  
2 elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp, each of said  
3 plurality of pad supports comprising: a hub having an  
4 aperture with a predetermined geometry substantially  
5 centrally disposed therein, said hub having a plurality of  
6 lobes radiating from the perimeter thereof, said lobes each  
7 having a distal ends at a predetermined radius from a center  
8 of said aperture, at least two of said plurality of pad  
9 supports differing from one another by at least one of the  
10 parameters: predetermined geometries, and predetermined  
11 radii.

1           21. The plurality of pad supports for placement on an  
2 elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim  
3 20, wherein at least one of said plurality of pad supports  
4 comprises a different color from another of said plurality  
5 of pad supports.